## IN THE SPECIFICATION

(page 1, first full paragraph)

### FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a firearm safety system and, more particularly, to a stealthy firearm safety system attachable to a firearm magazine and insertable into a ~~firing~~ loading chamber.

(pages 2-3 first paragraph of summary, page 4, last paragraph of summary)

### BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In one aspect of the present invention there is provided a firearm safety system for attachment to an upper end of a magazine for preventing the operation of a firearm having a ~~firing~~ loading chamber, a spring-loaded bolt and firing pin assembly, an ejection port flap and means for automatically locking and releasing a magazine from a ~~firing~~ loading chamber comprising an elongate magazine block including a lower portion removably attachable to an upper end of a magazine to locate the magazine block in such ~~firing~~ loading chamber and an upper portion extending substantially vertically from the lower portion to entrap the charging handle so as to eliminate its function of engaging the bolt and firing pin assembly into a firing chamber of a firearm thereby rendering such firearm inoperable and a near side portion adjacent an ejection port flap and far side portion. There is also a stiff plastic cover plate having an upper end portion that covers the ejection port and a lower extending generally outwardly and downwardly from the upper end portion, the upper portion including means for locking the cover plate to the magazine block, the means being positionable through an ejection port of a firearm for engaging the block for locating the cover plate to hide the block and an ejection port flap from plain view. The means for locking includes a laterally extending male member having a pair of spaced elongate resilient elements, each of which includes an outwardly extending locking shoulder for releasably connecting the element to the upper portion of the magazine block. The upper portion of the block includes a female receptor notch in the upper portion of the block for receiving the male member, the resilient elements partially passing transversely through the receptor notch to dispose the locking shoulder of each element on a far side of the receptor notch. The receptor notch includes a pair of substantially opposed parallel end walls extending between the side portions of a predetermined spacing, the elements being spaced apart to fit within the spacing when the cover plate becomes locked to the magazine block.

In a further aspect of the invention there is provided a firearm safety system for attachment to an upper end of a magazine for preventing the operation of a firearm having a ~~firing~~ loading chamber, a spring-loaded bolt and firing pin assembly, an ejection port and means for automatically locking and releasing a magazine from a ~~firing~~ loading chamber comprising an elongate magazine block including a lower portion having a pair of opposed shoulders for slidably inserting the block into the upper end of a magazine to locate the magazine block in a ~~firing~~ loading chamber, and an upper portion extending substantially vertically from the lower portion to prevent forward movement of a spring-loaded bolt and firing pin assembly into a ~~firing~~ loading chamber of a firearm, thereby rendering such firearm inoperable. The system also includes a cover plate having an upper end portion and a lower extending generally outwardly and downwardly from the upper end portion, the upper portion including means for locking the cover plate to the magazine block, the means being positionable through an ejection port of a firearm for engaging the block for locating the cover plate to hide the block and an ejection port flap from plain view.

(page 5, FIG. 1)

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING

FIG. 1 is a side elevational view of a portion of a firearm including a magazine carrying a magazine block positioned inside a ~~firing~~ loading chamber of the firearm, in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the magazine block attached to the upper portion of a magazine shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is an enlarged view of the magazine block of FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 is an enlarged elevation view showing the front end portion and far side of the magazine block of FIG. 2;

FIG. 5 is an enlarged top elevation view of an ejection port cover in a locked position with the magazine block installed in a firearm, in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 6 is an enlarged perspective view showing the inside surface of the cover plate shown in FIG. 5;

FIG. 7 is a front side elevational view of FIG. 5;

FIG. 8 is a perspective view of a second ejection port cover in accord with the present invention; and

FIG. 9 is another perspective of the cover of FIG. 8.

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Referring initially to FIG. 1, a firearm safety system embodying the present invention includes an elongate magazine block 20. The magazine block 20 is shown attached to a magazine 22 against spring-loaded magazine follower 30 or loaded rounds in place of one or two rounds removed from the upper end of the magazine 22 and is positioned in a ~~firing~~ loading chamber 23 of firearm 21 adjacent to an ejection port 24 of a firearm 21. A fully loaded spare magazine 25 having rounds 28 loaded therein is connected to magazine 22 by connection means 26 as shown and described in U.S. Patent No. 6,327,805, incorporated herein by reference.

(page 7, 3rd and 4th paragraphs {4th paragraph carries over to page 8})

To install the safety system, the magazine block 20 is inserted in place of one or two rounds of ammo at the top of magazine 22 and then pushed into the ~~firing~~ loading chamber 23 of the firearm 21 in the conventional manner well known in the art. The result is that the magazine block 20 substantially fills the ~~firing~~ loading chamber 23 and holds the charging handle 80 in the forward position in engagement with front end 51.

Once the magazine block 20 fills the ~~firing~~ loading chamber 23 and holds the handle 80, the firearm 21 is rendered inoperable because the height of the magazine block 20 is greater than the height of the ~~firing~~ loading chamber 23 and thereby blocks the forward movement of a spring loaded bolt and firing pin assembly 27 from entering the ~~firing~~ loading chamber of a firearm when the trigger 82 of the firearm 21 is activated, as best shown in FIG. 1. The operator cannot pull the bolt 27 via charging handle 80 from the locked open position held by block 20 because of the engagement of projecting tab 42 with bolt lock 77 of firearm 21. As a result, the bolt assembly 27 cannot move the block 20 forwardly if bolt 27 is disengaged from its locked position because surface 76 rests against front wall 37 of the magazine 22 and the block 20 cannot move laterally due to its attachment to the magazine 22. This ensures the bolt 27 will be in a safe position when the magazine is removed (without a round 28 in the chamber 23). The firearm 21 can become operable only if the magazine block 20 is removed from the ~~firing~~ loading chamber 23.

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Simply positioning the magazine block 20 into the ~~firing~~ loading chamber 23 of the firearm 21 activates the firearm safety system. In such an embodiment, the magazine block 20 is not hidden from plain view because when the magazine block is positioned in the ~~firing~~ loading chamber 23, the ejection port flap 24 of the firearm 21 is prevented from closing and thereby exposes the magazine block 20. Such an embodiment thereby does not provide a stealthy firearm safety system. Nevertheless, such an embodiment is effective for rendering the firearm 21 inoperable when stealth is not necessary.

Now referring to FIGS. 5 and 6, a cover plate 60 is attached to the magazine block 20 after same is positioned into the ~~firing~~ loading chamber 23 of a firearm 21. Accordingly, the magazine block 20 and a portion of the loaded spare magazine 25 become hidden from plain view. Such an embodiment provides a stealthy firearm safety system so that a non-operator such as a criminal, for example, cannot determine whether the firearm 21 is readily operable.

(page 10, 3rd and 4th full paragraphs)

Ejection tab 74 and flange 79 extend substantially perpendicular from the top end 78 of the cover plate 60 in a manner similar to the male member 61. The members 74, 79 are integrally formed with cover 60 and assist in stabilizing the block 20 within the ~~firing~~ loading chamber 23.

The cover plate 60 preferably may be unlocked from the magazine block 20 by removing the magazine block 20 from the ~~firing~~ loading chamber 23. The magazine block 20 may be swiftly removed from the ~~firing~~ loading chamber 23 by pressing the release button 81 on the firearm 21 and pulling the magazine 22 downwardly and away from the firearm 23. The magazine block 20 may be unlocked from the cover plate 60 in such a manner because each end wall 48, 49 is substantially planar and the female receptor notch 38 is unencumbered thereby permitting the end walls 48, 49 to slide downward and below the notches 66, 67, respectively.

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The ~~firing~~ loading chamber is now free to receive a loaded spare magazine 25 for rendering the firearm 21 operable. When the loaded spare magazine 25 is inserted into the ~~firing~~ loading chamber 23, the cover plate 60 is ejected outward and away from the ~~firing~~ loading chamber 23 and falls to the ground, for example. Bolt action against ramp member portion 74' of ejection tab 74 will force cover 60 out of the way if it does not fall away by itself.